

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated the allowability of claims 6-8, 10-15, 18-19, 21, 23 and 24 if rewritten to overcome the 112 rejection and if written in independent form. The applicant thanks the Examiner for his review of the claims and the indication of allowability.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 9, 16, 17, 20 and 22 as being anticipated by George et al. (3,186,643). Applicant has amended the claims to more particularly define the present invention over the cited prior art.

More particularly, amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a “closing means, external to said housing and to said rotary valve, that is pivotable about a member disposed external to said rotary valve.” Nowhere does the cited prior art teach or suggest such features. The Examiner equates the boss 92 of the George et al. reference to the closing means of the claim. However, the boss 92 is an integral part of the rotating valve as described in col. 3, lines 43-46 of the George et al. reference. Thus, the boss 92 is not “external to ... said rotary valve” as specified in the claim. Moreover, the boss 92 is not “pivotable about a member disposed external to said rotary valve” as specified in the claim. For these reasons, the means for closing the vent path in George et al. reference works in a completely different way and therefore neither anticipates nor suggests the “closing means” of claim 1.

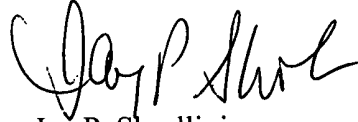
Similarly, amended 16 recites, *inter alia*, “vent control means, mounted externally on the housing, for pivoting movement in response to rotation of the rotary valve to close the vent port in the OFF position and to open the vent port in the ON position.” Clearly, the George et al. reference neither discloses nor suggests a vent control means which is mounted on the housing and employs pivoting movement to open and close the vent port. Indeed, the vent control means of the George et al. reference works in a completely different way, and therefore neither anticipates nor suggests the claimed “vent control means” of claim 16.

The dependent claims are patentable over the cited prior art for those reasons advanced above with respect to independent claims 1 and 16 from which they respectfully depend and for reciting additional features neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Please note that Applicant has submitted an Information Disclosure Statement herewith. Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the references cited therein and initialization the enclosed PTO form 1449.

In light of all of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in order for allowance, and prompt allowance is earnestly requested. Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney of record so that the case may proceed expeditiously to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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